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Stages of creative development 0-2 years

Stages of development 0-2 years. Stages of creative development in early childhood. Stages of creative development.

Creativity isn't just for artists – it's a skill that can be developed in various fields, including science. Creative-scientific explorations involve problem-solving, testing ideas, investigating, discovering, and inventing. Historically, creativity was thought to be limited to a select few, but anyone can tap into their creative potential given the right opportunity. In fact, babies and young children are natural explorers from birth, making connections and sense of the world around them. As Ken Robinson puts it, "Everyone has huge creative capacities; the challenge is to develop them." Developing our creative thinking skills is crucial in today's fast-changing world, where adapting and innovating are essential. Moreover, babies and young children need nourishment to thrive, including a balanced diet, exercise, rest, social interaction, and above all, freedom to play and develop their creativity. Engaging in creative activities can boost our well-being and mental health, benefiting both children and adults. As Nagale Jackson notes, "The truly great advances of this generation will be made by those who can make outrageous connections and only a mind which know how to play can do that." Through playful exploration, young children can develop their confidence, self-esteem, communication skills, and core attitudes to learning. These dispositions – such as persistence, resilience, collaboration, and risk-taking – provide the foundation for lifelong learning. By embracing creative play, we can cultivate our imagination, explore possibilities, and build upon our natural curiosity. Creative possibilities are born in various areas of learning for both children and adults, encompassing imaginative play, music composition, cooking, art, outdoor activities, mathematical development, and early understanding of the world. Possibility thinking enables questions to be posed and explored, often manifesting as a child's consideration of "what if?" scenarios. Creativity plays a significant role in cognitive development, allowing young children to explore their thoughts, feelings, and come up with novel ideas through creative play. Research supports this notion, highlighting that creativity is present in any discovery made, whether artistic, scientific, or technical. Psychologist Lev Vygotsky emphasized how creativity is linked to previous experiences, stating that the more a child sees, hears, and experiences, the more elements of reality they have, and the more productive their imagination will be. Studies by Durham University underscored the importance of a creative learning environment in supporting children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Creative opportunities stimulate curiosity, creativity, and imagination while enhancing communication skills. Moreover, being creative helps children cope with feelings and fears, manage emotional states, and develop positive dispositions towards challenges. Graham Wallas' theory of creative development suggests a four-stage process: preparation (planning), incubation (unconscious processing), illumination (the "lightbulb moment"), and verification (tying everything together). This framework provides insight into the stages through which children progress in their creative play. Creative thinking is a process where ideas are finalised, evaluated, and refined. Children move forward and backward through this stage as they explore, encounter obstacles, think, and reflect. Encouraging creativity in children involves nurturing their thoughts and ideas, rather than imposing our own. Professor Tina Bruce suggests that adults should support and guide children's creative thinking, allowing them to take the lead in their investigations and explorations. Positive interactions with children give them space to make decisions and take risks, which helps develop creative dispositions. It can be challenging for parents not to offer advice or cautionary words, but it's essential to allow children freedom to learn from their mistakes. Finding a balance between structure and freedom is unique to each parent-child relationship, often requiring careful observation and adjustment. When encouraging creativity in children, we're actually supporting the thinking skills that lead to creative ideas - specifically, creative-thinking skills for generating ideas and critical-thinking skills for analysing and reflecting on experiences. Engaging with children through open-ended questions can foster these skills within a collaborative process. For instance, asking "What are you noticing?" or "I wonder if there are any other ways to do this..." helps them develop their thinking abilities. In fact, Professor Tina Bruce recommends celebrating children's ideas and engaging with them in a way that lets their flow of enthusiasm continue unimpeded. This approach opens new possibilities by letting children notice and develop their own thinking. As Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is contagious - pass it on." Taking breaks from schedules and embracing outdoor play can be incredibly beneficial for kids' creativity. Nature provides endless inspiration, with its ever-changing landscape offering a wealth of opportunities for exploration and discovery. From playing with shadows to creating with natural materials like sand, water, and mud, children can engage in imaginative and problem-solving activities that promote their growth. Outdoor resources can be used in various ways, such as drawing, taking photographs, or collecting items to inspire further explorations. This approach fosters creativity, imagination, and critical thinking skills. Additionally, exploring the natural world allows children to develop their senses, observe details, and connect with their surroundings. The concept of "loose parts" involves collections of objects that can be manipulated and combined in various ways, allowing children's imaginations to run wild. Encouraging kids to go on treasure hunts or collect items they find interesting can lead to the creation of personal collections. Mark-making is another essential aspect of childhood development, where children express themselves through different media and surfaces. This activity enhances their sensory experiences and allows them to represent their thoughts and ideas in a creative way. As children grow older, drawing becomes an opportunity for self-expression and communication. Finally, shaking up the environment by rearranging furniture or adding new elements can spark curiosity and encourage kids to think creatively about how objects can be used. Similarly, exploring shadows, light effects, or using malleable materials like playdough can provide endless possibilities for imaginative play and learning. Making and mixing your own materials like playdough with twigs, straws, or feathers is a great way to get kids creative. Using household items like garlic presses, pastry rollers, or spoons can also help develop their coordination and agility. Imaginative play lets kids explore things on their own terms, which is good for them because it encourages creativity. You can join in and add props if you want, but be careful not to take over the play. If your child likes animals, you could get some toy animals and play a vet together, but let them guide the play. Using open-ended materials like cardboard boxes or old wallpaper can make kids more creative because they can use their imaginations to turn anything into something else. Sharing stories through books and play can also spark imagination, especially if you act out characters and scenes. For example, if your child loves "The Three Little Pigs," you could build a house together and then knock it down as the Big Bad Wolf. At My First Five Years, we're interested in learning more about how children develop. We'll share our findings through our app to help you notice and celebrate your child's progress. The app also lets you save memories of their skills and learn more about them through further reading and explanations. Raising Creative Young Minds. Parenting Essentials | Nurturing Development & Growth Looking after a tiny human can be extremely demanding. Your little one relies on you for everything and changes daily. As a caregiver, you need to stay flexible and learn alongside them as they discover new things about themselves, their family, and the world around them. In these early years, how you interact with your child, respond to their behavior, and introduce them to the world will shape deep attachment, trust, and a strong relationship. #### Key Developmental Stages & How To Support Them **Infants (0-12 months)**: At this stage, they learn through sensory exploration. They'll bang, throw, drop, shake, and put items in their mouths. Talking begins with babbling, leading to simple words and phrases. By 24 months, a child typically has around 50 words. **Toddlers (1-2 years)**: As they start speaking, they'll use two- and three-word sentences like "More juice," "Me want cookie." Give them access to safe objects that can be played with and learned from. Regularly read aloud with your child and encourage picture book interactions. Think out loud when with your baby or toddler; they absorb words when they hear them. **Emotional Intelligence**: Children learn emotional management through how you respond positively, are dependable, and show enjoyment in being together. Be consistent in meeting their needs positively, helping them calm down by addressing basic needs (food, sleep), removing them from stressful situations, or comforting them. #### Important Milestones * Infants will hold their head up, roll over, and eventually sit on their own. * Toddlers typically learn to creep then walk usually by 24 months. 1-2 year olds start to walk while holding hands, but will only take 2 steps before needing help. By 24 months, they can run, kick a ball, and go up & down stairs (with assistance). They get many illnesses, which helps them build immunity for the future. Give them safe space to explore, follow doctor's advice on check-ups, shots, and nutrition. Give them toys that challenge their muscles, but focus on what they like, not what's new. As they grow: - By 3 months, they start smiling & laughing. - Infants react to people's emotions, facial expressions, & behaviors. - Toddlers play alone near other kids, but don't interact with them. Spend quality time with your child, turn off electronics & respond to their needs. 1-2 year olds: - Show wonder, joy, sadness when they see/experience things. - Trust the world through attachment to parents & others. - Respond positively to their curiosity & let them rediscover their own wonder. Introduce them to music, rituals, sights, stories, etc., that are important to your family's traditions. Spiritual journeys are a universal aspect of the human experience, encompassing various religious and non-religious pursuits that transcend geographical boundaries and cultural backgrounds. Our extensive research, which spans multiple faiths and disciplines, sheds light on the complexities of this profound aspect of human growth and transformation.